REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicant cancels Claims 1, 6, and 11 and amends Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-15. No new matter is added. Therefore, Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-15 are all the claims currently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Cadotte et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,345,315 ("Cadotte").

Claims 1, 6, and 11. are canceled herewith.

Claims 2, 7, and 12. Regarding these claims, Applicant submits that Cadotte fails to disclose or suggest at least "sending it to a host computer what the depressing of the key corresponding to the function number exceeds the limit count if the value of the limit counter exceeds the limit count," as recited in Claim 2 (*see also* Claims 7 and 12). In other words, Cadotte fails to disclose or suggest transmitting a notification to a host computer that the function number exceeds a limit count when it is determined that the value of the limit counter exceeds the limit count.

Applicant notes that Cadotte describes that an electronic terminal for electrically collecting opinion data from customers includes a portable data collection terminal (see Fig. 6) in which collected data is received and stored. (Abstract). The portable data collection terminal can be connected, via conventional telephone lines, to a host processor, thus permitting the entirety of the collected data to be transmitted to the host processor. (Fig. 6, Abstract).

However, there is no disclosure or suggestion of any transmission to a host computer that a function umber exceeds a limit count. As described in Cadotte, the determination of whether the number of key hits is less than a "Lo-limit" or greater than a "Hi-Limit" is used in order to determine improper use of the terminal. (Fig. 18a; col. 33, lns. 39-64). Thus, if it is determined that the number of key hits is greater than the "hi limit," the terminal is powered-off and no data is stored. (Figs. 18a and 18c steps (G) to (F) to (FINISH OPERATE); col. 33, lns. 65-67; col. 2, ln. 65 to col. 3, ln. 4). Therefore, no information or notification is transmitted to the host processor if it is determined that the number of key hits is greater than the "hi limit."

Therefore, in view of at least the above, Applicant submits that Cadotte fails to anticipate Claims 2, 7, and 12 and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 3, 8, and 13. Regarding these claims, Applicant submits that Cadotte fails to disclose or suggest at least "displaying that the depressing of the key corresponding to the function number exceeds the limit count if the value of the limit counter exceeds the limit count," as recited in Claim 3 (See also Claims 8 and 13). In other words, Cadotte fails to disclose or suggest displaying a notification that the function number exceeds a limit count when it is determined that the value of the limit counter exceeds the limit count.

As noted above, Cadotte describes that when the number of key hits is greater than the "hi limit," this is an indication of invalid use of the terminal and the terminal flashes "Thank you" and then powers-off. The display of "Thank you," however is simply a courtesy to the user that is also displayed at the end of a session if there is a valid use (i.e. the number of key hits is

not greater than the "hi-limit" or lower than the "lo-limit"), and therefore is not a notification that

a function number exceeds a limit count.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicant submits that Cadotte fails to anticipate Claims

3, 8, and 13 and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and

withdrawn.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-5, 9-10 and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly

unpatentable over Cadotte in view of Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 4,935,608). Applicant submits

that Tanaka fails to remedy the above-described deficiencies of Cadotte, and therefore, Claims 4-

5, 9-10 and 14-15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claims 1, 6, and 11.

Further, regarding Claims 4-5, 9-10, and 14-15, Applicant submits that the cited

combination of references fails to teach or suggest reading in sequence, function numbers

corresponding to specific keys in sales data in a memory unit, as recited. The Examiner asserts

that Cadotte teaches a Clear Key, but acknowledges that Cadotte fails to teach a Cancel key, a

Void key, a No Sale key, or a Transaction Void key or that function number corresponding to

such keys are read out in sequence, as recited in Claims 4, 9, and 14, or collating function

numbers in sequence, in a depressing limit master, where an input corresponds to specific

function keys, as recited in Claims 5, 10, and 15, and therefore relies on Tanaka. (Office Action,

p. 4).

In Applicant's Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, filed June 7, 2004, and in

Applicant's Amendment filed November 10, 2004, Applicant asserted that Tanaka fails to teach

or suggest a Cancel key, a Void key, a No Sale key, or a Transaction Void key, as recited. (June 7 Amendment, p. 15; November 10 Amendment, p. 5-6). In response, the Examiner asserts that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ function numbers for such keys as cancel, Clear, Void, Transaction Void, and No Sale because these keys are conventional and well-known in the art to be components of a cash register keyboard system." (Office Action, p. 4)

However, the Examiner has failed to respond to Applicant's argument (see November 10 Amendment, p. 6) that even assuming, *arguendo*, that the use of these keys were well known in the art at the time of the present invention, there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited references of reading out, in sequence, function numbers corresponding to these specific keys, as recited in Claims 4, 9, and 14, or collating function numbers in sequence, in a depressing limit master, when an input corresponds to specific function keys, as recited in Claims 5, 10, and 15.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicant submits that Claims 4-5, 9-10, and 14-15 are patentable over the cited combination of references and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.
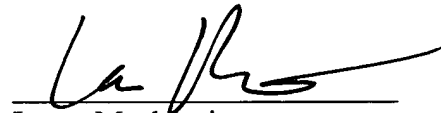
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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